STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A fiber blend for filter media use, comprising: a blend of electret synthetic fibers and dissimilar non-electret synthetic fibers, said electret synthetic fibers present from about 25 to about 97 weight % of said blend, and said dissimilar non-electret synthetic fibers present from about 3 to about 75 weight % of said blend, and said electret synthetic fibers having from about 0.1 to about 30 weight % of charge control agent, based on said weight of said electret synthetic fibers.

2. (Original) The fiber blend of claim 1, wherein said blend is bonded by a mechanical process, a chemical process, or with binder fibers.

3. (Original) The fiber blend of claim 2, wherein said mechanical process is by needle punching or hydroentangling.

4. (Original) The fiber blend of claim 2, wherein said chemical process is by latex resin bonding or hot melt adhesives bonding.

5. (Original) The fiber blend of claim 2, wherein said binder fibers employs low melt polymer fibers or bicomponent fibers.

6. (Original) The fiber blend of claim 5, wherein said binder fibers are said bicomponent fibers and comprises from about 3 to about 20 weight % of said blend.

7. (Original) The fiber blend of claim 6, wherein said bicomponent fibers have a low melting point component and a high melting point electret fiber component.

8. (Original) The fiber blend of claim 6, wherein said bicomponent fibers have a low melting point component and a high melting point dissimilar non-electret fiber component.

9. (Original) The fiber blend of claim 1, wherein said electret fibers are selected from the class of polytetrafluoroethylene (Teflon), polyolefin, polyurethane, polyester, or a mixture of two or more of these.

10. (Original) The fiber blend of claim 1, wherein said non-electret fibers are selected from the class of polyolefin, polyacrylates, polyacrylonitrile, polystyrene, fluoropolymers, polyesters, polyurethane, polycarbonates, polyamides, polyimides, polyetherketones, polyacetals, or a mixture of two or more of these.

11. (Original) The fiber blend of claim 1, wherein said charge control agent is selected from the class of triphenylmethanes.

12. (Original) The fiber blend of claim 11, wherein said charge control agent is Copy Blue.

13. (Original) The fiber blend of claim 11, wherein said charge control agent is Copy Charge.

14. (Original) The fiber blend of claim 1, wherein said electret fibers are polypropylene fibers.

15. (Original) The fiber blend of claim 14, wherein said non-electret fibers are polyethylene terephthalate fibers.

16. (Original) The fiber blend of claim 15, wherein said charge control agent is Copy Blue or Copy Charge.

17) (Withdrawn) A web for filter media having sufficient rigidity to maintain its shape, comprising a bonded blend of electret fibers and dissimilar non-electret fibers, said electret fibers present from about 25 to about 97 weight % of said blend, and said

dissimilar non-electret fibers present from about 3 to about 75 weight % of said blend, and said electret fibers having from about 0.1 to about 30 weight % of charge control agent, based on said weight of said electret fibers.

18) (Withdrawn) The web of claim 17, wherein said bonding is by a mechanical process, a chemical process, or with binder fibers.

19) (Withdrawn) The web of claim 17, wherein said mechanical process is by needle punching or hydroentangling.

20) (Withdrawn) The web of claim 17, wherein said chemical process is by latex resin bonding or hot melt adhesives bonding.

21) (Withdrawn) The web of claim 17, wherein said binder fibers employs low melt polymer fibers or bicomponent fibers.

22) (Withdrawn) The web of claim 21, wherein said binder fibers are said bicomponent fibers and comprises from about 3 to about 20 weight % of said blend.

23) (Withdrawn) The web of claim 22, wherein said bicomponent fibers have a low melting point component and a high melting point electret fiber component.

24) (Withdrawn) The web of claim 22, wherein said bicomponent fibers have a low melting point component and a high melting point non-electret fiber component.

25) (Withdrawn) The web of claim 17, wherein said electret fibers are selected from the class of polytetrafluoroethylene (Teflon), polyolefin, polyurethane, polyester, or a mixture of two or more of these.

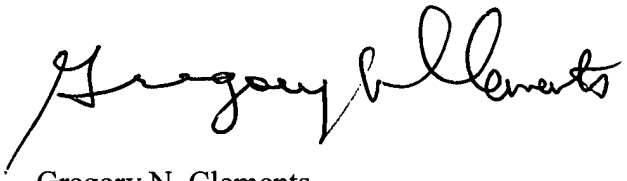
26) (Withdrawn) The web of claim 17, wherein said non-electret fibers are selected from the class of polyolefin, polyacrylates, polyacrylonitrile, polystyrene,

fluoropolymers, polyesters, polyurethane, polycarbonates, polyamides, polyimides, polyetherketones, polyacetals, or a mixture of two or more of these.

27) (Withdrawn) The web of claim 17, wherein said charge control agent is selected from the class of triphenylmethanes.

It is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and such is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,



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